



# The Arlington Advocate



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56 PAGES 4 SECTIONS

## Eagle scouts

Birders get rare sight at pond

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR  
STAFF WRITER

Crows hightailed it out of the way when a bald eagle with a 6-foot wing span flew over Spy Pond last weekend.

Harriet Noyes of Sheraton Park spotted the bald eagle on Sunday around 10:30 a.m. Standing about 30 inches tall, the eagle was sitting on the ice right behind her house, Noyes said. It was the first one she has seen on the pond in the 30 years she has lived there.

A number of other people saw the rare eagle, including Arlington birder Marjorie Rines.

"It looked like pure bliss — looked just like it was supposed to," she said. "Eagles are very emotional birds — associated with patriotism and flying bravely across the sky — which is exactly what this bald eagle called to mind."

Rines, a writer for "Bird Observer" journal, was working in her house on Sunday morning when she received a call from Karsten Hartel, also an Arlington birder. Hartel told her of Noyes' sighting.

There's a close network in the area, Rines said, and birders spread the news, particularly when it's something as important as the sighting of a bald eagle in Arlington.

"Seeing a bald eagle in this neck of the woods is very bizarre," she said. "Bald eagles routinely winter in Massachusetts, but to my knowledge there have been very few sightings — maybe two — here in Arlington."

Rines said she and Hartel called other people as soon as they could. On her ride over to Spy Pond, she even made a few calls from her cell phone.

The bald eagle, a full adult, was still at the pond around noon, alternating between sitting on the ice or flying over to sit in a tree on Elizabeth Island, Hartel said. It left the area at around 12:40 p.m. but not before Noyes had plenty of time to observe it with binoculars and clearly see its white head and tail, yellow beak, large talons spreading from its yellow feet and black body.

Rines said she cannot account for why the bald eagle was in Arlington. According to state wildlife officials, the extended warm spell this fall may have kept many birds from moving south from northern New England and Canada. Although final figures for the state have not been tallied,

■ SEE EAGLE, PAGE 14



STAFF PHOTOS BY MARC VASCONCELLOS

The Honorable Ruth J. Abrams, an associate justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, swears in new Middlesex District Attorney Martha Coakley during a ceremony at Town Hall Jan. 6.

## Coakley sworn in as new DA

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR  
STAFF WRITER

History was made in Arlington Town Hall last week when Martha Coakley became the first woman to serve as Middlesex County district attorney. Her jurisdiction includes 1.4 million people in 54 cities and towns, including Arlington, Cambridge, Somerville, Newton, Waltham, Lowell and Framingham.

Flanked by dignitaries, including for-

mer Attorney General Scott Harshbarger and new Attorney General Tom Reilly, Coakley was sworn into office last Wednesday night by Ruth Abrams, associate justice for the Supreme Judicial Court.

"This is a high point in Massachusetts judicial history," Abrams said. "Martha brings talent, ability, education, experience and courage to the job. The general public will become the beneficiary of her commitment to a fair and just criminal

justice system."

Coakley received a standing ovation at the ceremony.

"I am extremely humbled and look forward to the next four years with excitement, anticipation, a bit of nervousness and a lot of humility," Coakley said. "I am honored and proud to take over this office and continue its excellent work."

Coakley, an Arlington resident, said she will have to fill big shoes in her new

■ SEE COAKLEY, PAGE 10



Arlington resident Nora Mann, left, reacts after being sworn in as an assistant district attorney.

## Mann joins DA's office

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR  
STAFF WRITER

Nora Mann has always wanted to work in the field of public policy and for the public's interest.

So she is thrilled to begin her new job this week as an assistant district attorney for Middlesex County. Mann joined approximately 120 other attorneys who were sworn in to the position by District Attorney Martha Coakley in Arlington Town Hall last week.

"It's very exciting to be doing the kind of work I've always wanted to do," said Mann, who will be responsible for developing policies in the county's Family Protection Bureau and helping Coakley attain her vision of finding ways to prevent child abuse and domestic violence.

Mann served as a regional manager for Coakley's campaign after the two met through Dennis Newman, Coakley's general campaign manager. Newman had headed a group of Arlington residents that included Mann during the fight in support of the June 1997 debt exclusion.

■ SEE MANN, PAGE 10

## A door-to-door dent man

Businessman attacks dings from the inside out

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS  
STAFF WRITER

Someone pulls into the parking spot next to you, opens the door — and dents your car. It's the kind of damage that looks as though it should cost nothing to fix, yet it ends up costing a few hundred dollars.

But if you had called "Ding-Dent Done," a company with a new way of fixing those frustrating little problems, you would have paid only about one-third of that price.

Jim Sama, owner of Ding-Dent Done, began his business four years ago after reading about a new process called paintless dent removal in Entrepreneur Magazine.

Sama has always been interested in aesthetics and admits that he doesn't know the first thing about the engine of a car. He does, however, know a great deal about the body of a car and said he can fix just about anything on it.

Ding-Dent Done is not his first business, though with its success it certainly may be his last.

For 18 years, he owned and worked in a hair salon. During these years he started many different companies. He tried his luck at a shoe

franchise, greeting cards, cigarette lighters and other ideas, but none of them worked out.

"I have failed at a lot of things," admitted Sama, "so it took a lot to go out and start this business."

But he knew he had one very big thing in his favor: He is one of only two paintless dent removers in the area.

His business consists of his van, his talent and his tools, a collection that cost him about \$30,000 at the start. It is fueled by the frequency of dents and dings, which he said are abundant in the Boston area.

The process Sama uses involves massaging the metal of the car and resculpting it from inside. He uses a series of rods and light refraction.

"I never take anything off the car," he said. "There are no bonders, no paint, no fillers, like you would find if you went to a body shop."

The results, according to Sama, are better.

"When you go the conventional way you are pulling the dent out with suction, then you fill it in, sand it, and then you have to repaint it," said Sama.

With Sama's process there is no paint to

■ SEE DING, PAGE 10



Jim Sama displays a tool of his trade.

STAFF PHOTO BY MARC VASCONCELLOS

## Stands at AHS will be replaced

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS  
STAFF WRITER

The condemned visitors stands at Arlington High's Peirce Field will be replaced this summer under a plan by town officials, who say they have identified the needed \$100,000 in previously allocated and surplus funds.

At its meeting Tuesday night, the School Committee accepted the money and a design for the new stands. The action was the latest in a series of political maneuverings that have pitted Selectman Charles Lyons against the Arlington Youth Alliance (AYA), a newly-organized group of youth athletic coaches and supporters.

The AYA wants lights to be installed at the field, which sits behind Arlington High. The group says it has \$320,000 ready for the lighting project. Members are annoyed that the School Committee has not moved forward on the lighting plan, and that a selectmen's subcommittee issued a call for design proposal for the complex and failed to include the lights.

Lyons questions whether the AYA has the

■ SEE FIELD, PAGE 14

## Board files Osco vote

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS  
STAFF WRITER

The clock has started ticking for American Stores Inc., which must decide whether to file an appeal of the Redevelopment Board's decision against opening an Osco Drugs store in Arlington Center.

After more than a year of debate and deliberation, the Redevelopment Board Monday put the finishing touches on its decision to deny the special permit needed for the construction of a drug store at the former Time Oldsmobile site at Massachusetts Avenue and Mill Street.

Osco has 20 days to appeal after the decision is filed. Robert Muldoon, the local attorney representing American Stores, Osco's parent company, could not be reached for comment on whether or not an appeal is in the works.

American Stores purchased the former car dealership for \$2.1 million in 1997. The plans for an Osco prompted opposition from residents in the area, who were concerned about traffic safety, and members of St. Athanasius the Great Church, who worried about noise and the fact that the store would be open dur-

■ SEE OSKO, PAGE 14

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WORKING  
A BEEP WANTED SECTION WORTH EDUCATION



## CORRECTIONS

• The assessment figures in an article last week on Minuteman Regional High School's preliminary budget were for all member towns, not Arlington alone. Arlington's representative on the school's board, Paul Schlichtman, was therefore saying he believed the total assessment for all member towns is at least \$1.5 million too high.

• An article in the school section of last week's edition may have left the wrong impression that the Cub Scout pack that meets at the Dallin School is an official school organization. While it meets at the school and is made up of school students, it is not a school organization.

## MEETINGS

**Jan. 14**  
The Health Insurance Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., first floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

**Arlington Human Rights Commission**, Rapid Response System Subcommittee, 7:30 p.m., Whittemore Robbins House

**Council on Aging**, Bylaw Subcommittee, Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St.

**Lexington, Arlington, Belmont, Burlington Community Partnership**, 3 p.m., Arlington Heights Nursery, 127 Lowell St.

**Jan. 18**  
**Board of Assessors**, 7:30 p.m., Office of the Assessors, first floor conference, Town Hall.

**Jan. 19**  
**Minuteman Regional School Committee**, 7:30 p.m., first floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

**Permanent Town Building Committee**, 7:30 p.m., first floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

**Jan. 20**  
**Board of Health**, 2 p.m., Fox Community Center

**Arlington Human Rights Commission**, 8 p.m., Jefferson-Cutter House

**Open Space Committee**, 7:30 p.m., first floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

**Jan. 21**  
**Arlington Conservation Commission**, 7:30 p.m., DPW conference room, Town Hall Annex

**Arlington Recycling Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex

**Millennium Celebration Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Hearing Room, Town Hall

## Two delegations coming from Japanese sister city this year

This year, Arlington will celebrate the 15th anniversary of its Sister City relationship with Nagaokakyo, Japan.

In honor of this event, a delegation from Nagaokakyo, including the mayor and other major city officials and citizens, are expected to visit Arlington during Town Day weekend. Town Day will be Sept. 18.

In addition, another delegation, which is expected to be a mixture of students and adults, will be visiting Arlington March 25-28. Arlington residents interested in hosting a member of either of these groups should contact Ms. Janet Pagliuca, Vice President of the Arlington-Nagaokakyo Sister City Association, Inc., 72 Piedmont St., Arlington, 646-5209.

As part of the 15th anniversary celebration, Arlington will also send a delegation to Nagaokakyo in July. Plans are being made to include visits to two other cities in Japan as part of the trip, Hokkaido, which is a Sister State of Massachusetts, and Nara, which was the first permanent capital of Japan more than 1,000 years ago. Nagaokakyo was also the capital of Japan for a short period of time following the Nara period.

# Judge recommends Antonelli be removed

BY AMY JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

The judge hearing the case of Robert Antonelli recommended he be removed from his office as the Middlesex Register of Probate.

At a Jan. 8 hearing where Antonelli's lawyer presented written arguments against the recommendations of hearing officer Charles Bowser, it became apparent removal from office was Bowser's recommendation.

"It think that's safe to say, based on what transpired here today," said Diane Tillotson,

one of two lawyers appointed to the case by the committee which brought the charges against Antonelli.

Antonelli's hearing on misconduct charges was held in Boston at the end of September. The Committee on Professional Conduct for the Clerks of Court accused him of failing to be impartial in his duties as Register of Probate, demeaning and insulting his employees to the point where it affected the administration of justice within the court and conducting himself in a manner that impeded communications within the court.

Antonelli, who lived in Woburn but moved to Somerville last year, has been suspended with pay from his \$75,000 a-year job with the county since Oct. 28, 1997, pending resolution of these misconduct charges. The state Legislature recently voted to give a raise to all county registrars of probate, so Antonelli is now earning \$82,500, he confirmed.

The written recommendation of the hearing officer and Antonelli's written rebuttal are confidential and not available to the public, according to Antonelli's lawyer, Peter Gubellini.

## Town reorganizes personnel and payroll offices

At its Monday meeting, the Board of Selectmen took the following action:

- Approved reorganization of the town's personnel and payroll departments. Town Manager Donald Marquis and Treasurer John Billafer developed a proposal to combine the staff of the personnel department with the staff of the treasurer's payroll divisions so the employees could receive an increase in classification and become trained in all areas of personnel, payroll and benefits administration.

- Agreed to have additional trash pickups at East Arlington, Broadway Plaza and Arlington Heights on Saturdays and Sundays for the rest of the fiscal year. The estimated cost for additional personnel time is \$17,000. Selectmen will reevaluate the decision in a few months.

- Appointed four new election workers: Lori Murray of Brattle Street, Theodore Economo of Melrose Street, Toulou Economo of Mel-

rose Street and Donnarose Russian of Spring Street; reappointed Roger Rosen to the Human Rights Commission.

- Appointed Selectmen Charles Lyons and Stephen Gilligan to review findings of the town's 1998 audit and report back to the board next month.

- Approved inserting an article into the warrant for Town Meeting which establishes a bylaw granting selectmen the power of permit for the integrity of telecommunication poles and develop standards and regulations for their upkeep in Arlington.

### Reed's Brook update

According to Kevin O'Brien, the assistant director of planning and community development, the town is making progress — albeit "frustratingly slow" — to resolve an appeal to the Department of Environmental Protection so the town can complete storm drain work in the Reed's Brook area and move on the reconstruction of

Summer Street.

O'Brien's department completed testing and analysis of the sediments in the brook channel in Lexington and met with the appellants and the Conservation Commission representatives in October. In November, O'Brien said, his department completed the modeling and analysis of the potential downstream flooding effects of cleaning out the brook channel.

The studies indicated additional steps will be necessary in the cleanup of the storm drain, O'Brien said. Currently, he is waiting to see the Lexington engineering department's written report on Arlington's analysis.

O'Brien has scheduled a Jan. 20 meeting which brings together Conservation Commissions in Lexington and Arlington, Lexington appellants, the Arlington Redevelopment Board's engineer and attorney and the Lexington engineering department. After the meeting, O'Brien said, the town will have a better idea of how to

proceed. Construction, he pointed out, cannot begin until six months after receiving all necessary permission to proceed.

### Town Manager search

Selectmen feel the most critical decision now facing the board is the search for a new town manager to replace Donald Marquis when he retires in a year and a half.

After agreeing to gaining input from a large group of people including members of the public, Selectmen Charles Lyons and Stephen Gilligan will work with Personnel Director John Dunlap on a calendar of the phases to be completed and report back to the board at the Feb. 8 meeting.

Selectmen agreed they must scrutinize the job description and examine the town's Town Manager Act before proceeding. It's likely, they said, the town will employ a professional organization to help with the search.

—Susan Danseyar

## Vision 2020 stats and questions coming in new census

Soon to arrive at each dwelling in Arlington, inside the town's annual Census mailing, will be this year's Vision 2020 invitation to residents to participate in the Vision 2020 process.

Vision 2020's 1999 invitation is issued around two initiatives:

- First, residents are provided a table of key Arlington statistics. Listed in column form for 1970, 1990 and current figures, this data highlights numbers for population, registered voters, town budget, employees, automotive issues, recreation and open space, household income, home values, median rent, tenure of occupancy, commercial data, and library

circulation.

Vision 2020 invites recipients to think about these statistics and asks for their suggestions on future needs and directions for Arlington.

- Second, residents are invited to review Town Goals, adopted as bylaw by Town Meeting in 1993, and the projects for each Vision 2020 Task Group associated with the Goals—Business, Communication, Community and Citizen Service, Culture and Recreation, Diversity, Education, Environment, Fiscal Resources, Governance and Students.

Townpeople are encouraged to participate in these task groups

and to offer their willingness to work with others on projects for Arlington's future. Some examples of task group projects are: documenting the pollution sources that are causing excessive algae and weed growth at Spy Pond; addressing diversity issues in the schools, especially the need for minority hiring; and exploring community-based self-insurance programs.

Founded in 1990, Arlington's Vision 2020 is an active partnership of townspeople, public officials and town employees who work together on matters important to life in Arlington. With an appreciation of Arlington's past,

it is dedicated to ensuring that issues important to Arlington's future are studied, acted upon and resolved in a timely process which is strategic, creative, collaborative and fact based. More than 4,500 people have participated.

Response forms can be returned with census information to the Town Hall, or can be mailed separately to Vision 2020, Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave., 02476. For the first time, those wishing to respond electronically can do so through the Vision 2020 Web Site at <http://arlington2020.org>

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# Hardy School proposal sent back

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS  
STAFF WRITER

Superintendent Kathleen Donovan has turned down the initial proposal from the construction company for the Hardy School, which is trying to accelerate the project's schedule.

Bonfatti Constructions has asked Donovan and the School Committee to consider a plan that would finish the Hardy School a year earlier than the original schedule.

The \$5.1 million Hardy School project is the final job in New England for Bonfatti, whose parent company is in the process of closing down operations here. Bonfatti officials said they will honor the Hardy contract, but they want

to submitted another plan to Donovan.

The initial plan would cost an additional \$300,000. Donovan said the company would only cover \$75,000 of that cost.

Though the school would save money in busing if the project is pushed up a year, Donovan does not think that savings would cover the additional \$225,000 cost to the town. She has asked Bonfatti to come back with another plan that is less costly to the town.

The proposed plan involves bringing in mobile classrooms to the Hardy school and using the new gym as a classroom while construction is done inside the school. The gym, which is currently under construction, would have new bathrooms and would

be completely wired.

Donovan has met with the company several times in hopes to negotiate some kind of plan, but she does not think they will budge from their last offer.

Donovan will continue talking with the company but unless they can come up with more money, the Hardy project will continue on the original schedule.

In other news, RCN will be supplying a large bus to the schools equipped with everything to make a television show. A corporate vice president from RCN will visit the schools on Jan. 28 or 29 for a meeting with the staff and students.

The students will pick two to three topics and then use the bus to produce a show.

## FIRE LOG

The Fire Department responded to 99 calls during the period of Jan. 4-10. The calls included 19 investigations, 30 rescue, 10 fire.

Jan. 5

At 12:15 p.m., firefighters responded to Woodland Street for a report of smoke coming from the roof of a house. Firefighters arrived and extinguished the fire. They opened the roof and an exterior wall to make sure the fire had not spread. The fire began when a worker using a power saw on the roof ignited insulation.

Jan. 7

At 7:24 a.m., firefighters responded to a two-car accident at

the intersection of Rawson Street and Mystic Valley Parkway. The driver of a utility truck was rear-ended, causing his head to whip back into the rear window of his cab. Firefighters transported him to Symmes Hospital and Medical Center.

Jan. 8

At 4:20 p.m., firefighters responded to Alewife Brook behind Sunnyside Avenue for a dog that had fallen in the water. Upon arrival, firefighters saw the dog struggling to keep its front paws clamped to the edge of the ice. Firefighters, using a long pole with a hook at the end, hooked the dog's collar and pulled it to

safety.

At 8:36 p.m., firefighters responded on a mutual aid call to Somerville. They remained there for one hour. At 9:08 p.m., other firefighters responded to a mutual aid call in Cambridge. They remained for one and a half hours.

Jan. 9

At 3:46 p.m., firefighters responded to Avon Place for a broken water pipe. Firefighters shut off water on the street, but they could not turn the valve all the way off. They temporarily plugged the valve and called Public Works.

## POLICE LOG

Jan. 7

At 7:15 p.m., police arrested Alexander Boverman, 22, of 46 Amisden St., and charged him with failure to display inspection sticker, operating after license suspended, and a default warrant.

Jan. 8

At 1:30 p.m., police arrested Wallace Raymond, 45, of 4 Daniels St., and charged him with operating without a current inspection sticker and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

Jan. 9

At 9:30 p.m., police arrested

Scott Hurley, 33, of 120 Madison Ave., and charged him with operating after revocation and possession of cocaine.

An officer saw a car traveling east on Massachusetts Avenue, swerving from side to side. Police stopped the car to check the condition of the driver.

A computer check revealed that his license had been revoked. Police arrested him and transported him to the station where a small bag of a substance believed to be cocaine was found in his right pocket.

At 8:30 p.m., police arrested Basil Lallo, 45, of 101 Orient Ave., and charged him with assault and battery and threatening to commit a crime.

Police responded to Orient Street for a report of a domestic violence disturbance. Upon arrival, police spoke to a woman who said she and her husband had an argument and that he had punched her in the arm. Her son called the police and reported that his father threatened to kill his mother and him.

Police arrested Lallo and transported him to the station.

## SPRIT OF GIVING



Jessica Callahan (right), senior fundraising representative at the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, presents the Spirit of Sharing Award to Norma Cacciamani (left), of Arlington and administrative coordinator for infectious disease at Mount Auburn Hospital. Mount Auburn Hospital raised almost \$50,000 for the United Way.

## CAPITOL THEATRE

204 Massachusetts Ave.  
Movie listings, 648-4340  
Through Jan. 14

- THE WATERBOY (PG13)  
1:30, 3:15, 5:05, 7:05, 9:15
- HAPPINESS (NR)  
7, 9:40
- NEXT STOP, WONDERLAND (R)  
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:35
- ANTZ (PG)  
1:35, 3:25, 5:15
- THE WIZARD OF OZ (G)  
1:25, 3:25, 5:25
- PSYCHO (R)  
5:20, 7:35, 9:50

Jan. 15, 19-21

- A SIMPLE PLAN (R)  
2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:50
- ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)  
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
- STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)  
1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10
- THE RUGRATS MOVIE (G)  
1:35, 3:20, 5:05
- MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (PG)  
2, 4:40, 7, 9:15
- PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)  
5:05, 7:30, 9:55
- BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (G)  
1:20, 3:10
- THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)  
7:20, 9:40

Jan. 16-18

- SIMPLE PLAN (R)  
12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:50
- ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)  
11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
- STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)  
11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10
- THE RUGRATS MOVIE (G)  
11:50, 1:35, 3:20, 5:05
- MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (PG)  
11:40, 2, 4:40, 7, 9:15
- PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)  
5:05, 7:30, 9:55
- BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (G)  
11:30, 1:20, 3:10
- THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)  
7:20, 9:40

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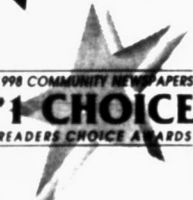
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## BEACON HILL ROLL CALL

**The House and Senate.** The 1999-2000 legislative session got under way last week as representatives and senators were sworn in at the traditional opening day ceremonies on Wednesday. This year's House membership includes 131 Democrats, 28 Republicans and one Independent.

## HOUSE



**James J. Marzilli**  
D-Arlington  
(617) 722-2060  
Room 33



**Anne M. Paulsen**  
D-Belmont  
(617) 722-2140  
Room 22



**Robert A. Havern III**  
D-Arlington—  
(617) 722-1432  
Room 513

1. F 1. F 1. B

The Senate membership consists of 33 Democrats and 7 Republicans. Five of the senators are freshman members while 21 of the representatives are new.

Amidst the festivities, each chamber also elected its presiding officers. The House reelected Tom Finneran (D-Boston) as Speaker while the Senate reelected Tom Birmingham (D-Chelsea) as Senate President.

This week, BHRC records local representatives' votes on the election of Speaker of the House and local senators' votes on election of the Senate President. In addition, last week, the legislature also gave final approval to several bills during the last two days of the 1998 session. The bills are now on the governor's desk. BHRC updates action on those measures.

**1. House Speaker** — House 131-28, reelected Tom Finneran as Speaker of the House. Finneran, a Democrat, received 131 votes while Fran Marini, a Republican from Haverhill, garnered 28 votes and is now the Republican Minority Leader. Finneran received the votes of the House's only Independent legislator and all but one of the 131 Democrats. Chris Hodgkins (D-Lee) voted "present." Marini received the votes of all 28 Republicans. (An "F" means the representative voted for Finneran. An "M" means the representative voted for Marini.)

**1. Senate President** — On a strictly party line vote, the Senate 33-7, reelected Democrat Tom Birmingham as Senate President. Birmingham defeated Republican Brian Lees of East Longmeadow who was reelected as Minority Leader. (A "B" means the senator voted for Birmingham. An "L" means the senator voted for Lees.)

## SENATE

**School Bus Inspections (H 2360)** — On Jan. 5, the House and Senate approved and sent to Governor Cellucci a bill requiring all school bus drivers to perform post-trip inspections of the inside of their school buses. The measure is aimed at preventing young students from being accidentally left on the bus and imposes a \$50 fine on violators.

**Child Support (\$ 1925)** — On Jan. 5, the House and Senate okayed and sent to the governor legislation imposing up to a \$5000 fine and or 2 1/2 year jail sentence on anyone who receives or conceals the assets of a person in order to help the person avoid child support payments.

**Violence Prevention (H 2077)** — The governor has signed a bill providing that the state board of education develop a curriculum for all public school students on violence prevention to inform students of the harmful effects of teenage violence, weapons and illegal drug use. The proposal provides that the curriculum be sent to each school district and that schools be encouraged to implement it.

**Cantors (S 2354)** — On Jan. 5, the House and Senate approved and sent to the governor a bill allowing out-of-state Jewish cantors to perform marriage ceremonies in Massachusetts. Current law allows many non-resident clergy, including rabbis and priests, to do so but requires out-of-state cantors to request a special permit for each marriage ceremony they wish to perform.

**How long was this week's session?** During the week of Jan. 4-8, the House met for a total of 12 hours and 12 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 16 hours and 21 minutes.

## Legislators optimistic at start of session

BY STEVE LEBLANC  
AND SUSAN DANSEYAR  
STAFF WRITERS

With pomp and circumstance — and plenty of promises — the new state Legislature formerly took office Jan. 6, setting the stage for renewed debate on the minimum wage, health care and the death penalty.

Two hundred state lawmakers, including 21 new representatives and five new senators, were sworn in during two crowded Beacon Hill ceremonies. Senator Thomas Birmingham was again elected Senate President. In the House, Rep. Thomas Finneran won the post of House Speaker for another term.

The re-election of Birmingham and Finneran — coupled with Thursday's inaugural of Paul Cellucci as the state's newest governor — leaves the power structure on Beacon Hill virtually unchanged with the distinct possibility of a return to some of last year's heated debates.

One bone of contention is a proposed \$1.50 hike in the state's minimum wage over the next three years. Birmingham supports the hike and the Senate approved the measure last year, only to have it die in the House when Finneran, who opposes the increase, blocked a House vote.

After winning the top seat in the Senate on a strict party line balloting (33 Democrats to seven Republicans), Birmingham announced he would again push for the wage hike.

Moments later, Finneran signaled Birmingham is facing an uphill fight. Finneran predicted the minimum wage hike will lose in the House. Finneran said the increase would put the Massachusetts industries at a disadvantage with neighboring states, which have not raised their minimum wages above the national rate.

A bill to reform the state's mandated care industry could also hit some roadblocks.

In the last legislative session, both the House and Senate approved separate versions of the bill, which died when a compromise could not be hammered out in time.

Birmingham said he is determined to put an HMO reform bill on Cellucci's desk.

But, again, Finneran cautioned against rushing forward. He said the debate should not be dominated by advocacy groups bent on "trashing" the managed care industry.

Finneran said a too radical version of the bill could jeopardize the state budget and put education reform spending at risk.

"We hope that everyone will refrain from anecdotes and focus on what is seriously needed but avoid some of the excesses that are suggested to us," he said.

The death penalty could also provide some drama in the coming session. Although supporters of capital punishment hold a majority in the Senate, the vote in the House is — by Finneran's own description — "razor thin."

One topic Birmingham and Finneran agree on is the Legislature's commitment to the 1993 Education Reform Act. Birmingham, who helped write the law, warned that to maintain the level of spending after the year 2000 would take an extra \$100 million annually.

"I pledge with every fiber of my body not to retreat from adequate funding for all of our schools districts and all of our school children," he said.

Much of the day, however, was dominated by the ceremony of the swearing in of the 181st Legislature, all busily preparing their own pet projects and legislative priorities for the new year.

Rep. James J. Marzilli, D-Arlington, believes much of the acrimony in the Legislature has dissolved over the past few years and that the new session will not be characterized by bickering.

Rather, Marzilli said, "there's plenty of room for good, healthy debate in the State House. We're supposed to have a two-party system with debate."

Recently, he said, a journalist asked if he had a New Year's resolution and, after thinking it over, he said it is to disagree vigorously but not to be disagreeable about it.

"In the past, I've felt there weren't enough members who were willing to stand up and disagree with the Speaker," Marzilli said. "The key is to disagree when necessary and realize that we must all work together."

In general, Marzilli said, his work in the Legislature can be divided into two categories: geared toward the needs of Arlington and Medford and public policy.

For this session, Marzilli said his plans for his district include continuing work concerning NESWC. The 23 member towns are in a position to make a decision about their contract and whether or not to continue it past 2005, Marzilli said. The legislation he has filed would prohibit the state from relicensing the trash incinerator if Wheelabrator enforces the put or pay clause it currently enforces on the towns.

The put or pay clause — which requires towns deliver a specific tonnage of garbage each year and a specific for tonnage or not they deliver it — is currently illegal although

NESWC towns had it grandfathered into their contract.

In addition, Marzilli feels Arlington needs to renegotiate with other communities to come up with a fair assessment policy for membership in Minuteman Regional High School.

"It is unconscionable that Arlington has to pay \$1.2 million more than the median cost of educating students at Minuteman," he said. "That \$1.2 million is a lot of money which could pay for substantial improvements in the Arlington public schools."

For public policy issues, Marzilli wants to increase the minimum wage, something he feels will certainly become law this year; and establish state funded property tax relief.

Senator Robert A. Havern III, D-Arlington, intends to continue work on the local portion on Education Reform with the aim of increasing funding to \$125 per student.

In addition, he said he will work very hard on the teacher early retirement bill. Currently, a teacher must wait some 40 years before taking early retirement, but Havern said he would like to see the time reduced to 30 years.

"I recognize that school systems, the students and the profession has changed quite a bit," he said. "If you've been teaching that long, I think that you should be able to leave with dignity."

Rep. Anne M. Paulsen, D-Belmont who also represents precincts in East Arlington, said she will continue to push for bicycle legislation that requires helmets for riders 12-18 and establishes an expanded advisory committee within the Massachusetts Highway Department that includes citizens with knowledge of bicycle transportation.

In addition, Paulsen wants to see systems in place which allow people who have exhausted their welfare benefits to find additional assistance for an additional period of time; reduce the cost of auto insurance in Massachusetts; find ways for Arlington and Belmont to pay appropriate amounts to Minuteman Regional High School; and augment the Family and Medical Leave bill whereby people can receive a percentage of their wages.

Paulsen predicts there will be some difficulties this session surrounding the pressure to decrease the state income tax.

"We've been hearing, just in the past few days, that it may not be advisable to do so," she said. "We're in the middle of the Big Dig and many people may feel good to know money is going toward maintaining schools, fire and police departments and bridges."

## ROUND UP

## AYA elects officers

The Arlington Youth Alliance (AYA) recently held its first election of officers.

Elected were Robert B. Geribo, president; Michael D'Agnes, vice president; Jim Robillard, director of operations; and Paul McKenna, recording secretary.

The AYA is a coalition of Arlington youth sports organizations formed solely for the purpose of ensuring the youth of Arlington have adequate sports facilities that are clean, safe, and a source of pride for the community. The membership includes coaches, parents, vol-

unteers, businessmen, professionals and laborers.

This vision is a result of the existing conditions at Arlington High School's Warren Peirce Field, which the AYA says is dilapidated and continues to be an embarrassment to the community. The AYA has a long-term goal of ensuring that the youth of Arlington have high quality playing field, and skating rinks throughout the town.

The only criteria for membership is an interest in youth sports.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the A.Y.A. should contact Robert B. Geribo (781) 386-5153 and/or Jim Robillard (781)

648-1945.

## Blanket drive Jan. 31

On Sunday, Jan. 31, new and used clean blankets may be dropped off at the Fidelity House gym located on Medford Street across from St. Agnes Church between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon.

All blankets donated will be given to homeless shelters and distributed through street outreach programs. The drive is being run by St. Agnes' Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

## Volunteers needed for election work

Residents interested in working as election workers at the polls during 1999 should contact the Board of Selectmen's office at 316-3020.

## Collection date set for Christmas trees

The last townwide Christmas tree collection date is Friday, Jan. 15. Additional yard waste may be placed at the curb at this time. This will be the last yard waste collection until regularly scheduled collections begin again in April.

Please remember to have the trees and yard waste, in paper containers, at the curb by 7 a.m. Make sure the trees and any containers are not covered by snow if there is any. This will ensure that the items are seen and removed, and not left behind.

Anyone interested in compost bins may purchase one at the Public Works office on the second floor of the Town Hall Annex from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is \$17 for Arlington residents; payment is by check only. If you start composting now, you should have compost ready for next fall's garden plantings.

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**Legal Sea Foods** — Present your Community Card and this coupon to receive one children's meal FREE from the award winning Children's Menu with the purchase of a full price entree.

**Hoyts Cinemas Corporation** — With purchase of a Hoyts Cinema movie ticket, present your Community Card and this coupon at any Hoyts Cinema concession area and receive one medium popcorn for FREE. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

**Spirit of Boston Harbor Cruises** — Buy two lunch or dinner cruise tickets and receive two FREE, for a table of four, when you present your Community Card. Advance reservation required at 617-748-1450. Offer good through April 10, 1999. Good for up to 8 people per reservation. Not valid on existing tickets, holidays, special events, or combined with any other offer.

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Actors hoping for a role in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* were put through their paces at the recent open auditions.

PHOTO BY GLENN DOYLE

## AFD working on next production

Auditions were held recently for the next production by Arlington Friends of the Drama of Neil Simon's comedy *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* opening in February. "Laughter" is Neil Simon's tribute to the comedic genius of Sid Caesar and his roomful of gag writers who presented 90 minutes of live entertainment weekly, for *Your Show of Shows* (1950-54). The talents of these writers; Mel Brooks, Larry Gelbart, Mel Tolkin, Woody Allen, Lucille Kallen, Sheldon Keller, along with Neil Simon and his brother Danny, shaped generations of stage, film and TV comedy.

Rehearsals have begun with a

talented cast that includes Adam Brown, Scott R. Grumling, Stan Alger, Toni Oteri, David R. Marks, Denis Fitzpatrick, Iain Bason, Anne Damon and Cynthia Chapell Deal. The play will be directed by B.J. Williams, well known for her directing talents with *The Belmont Dramatic Club*, *The Winchester Players* and now *Arlington Friends*.

The play contains some adult language, fast paced wit, comic timing and promises to be one of the funniest productions of the year. Performances will be from Feb. 19 through Feb. 28. For more information call the Box Office at 646-5922.

## BIRTHS

### Sean Patrick Tomaszewski

Charles and Lauren (Crowley) Tomaszewski announce the birth of their son, Sean Patrick, on Oct. 19, 1998 at Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Grandparents are John and Mary Crowley of Arlington and Rita Tomaszewski of Somerville.

Great grandmother is Nora Crowley of Arlington.

Sean is welcomed home by his sisters, Jaclyn and Kaleigh.

### Abigail Elis Bucci

A daughter, Abigail Elis, was born Oct. 27, 1998 to Patty (Matthews) and Kevin Bucci of Arlington at Winchester Hospital.

Grandparents are Kathy and Thomas Matthews of Medford, and Elizabeth and Harold Bucci of Orleans.

Abigail weighed 11 pounds and 2 ounces, and joins siblings Amy, Kavanaugh and Christian.

### Liam Clifford Chapman

A son, Liam Clifford Chapman was born on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1998 at Mount Auburn Hospital to Laura and Darren Chapman of Arlington.

Maternal grandparents are Martha and Joseph Barrell of Belmont.

Paternal grandparent is Avis Chapman of Watertown.

Great-grandparents are Stanley Chapman and Dorothy Agan.

### Adam Bates Deakin

A son, Adam Bates Deakin was born on Monday, Nov. 11, 1998 at Mount Auburn Hospital to Michelle Bates Deakin and David Deakin of Arlington.

Maternal grandparents are Ann and David Bates of Essex, Conn.

Paternal grandparents are Doris and Jim Deakin of Barrington, R.I.

### Danielle June Diggins

Dennis and Elizabeth (Gold) Diggins of Arlington announce the birth of their daughter, Danielle June, on Dec. 14, 1998, at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Grandparents are June and the late Nicholas Gold, and Doris and the late James Diggins.

Danielle is welcomed home by big sister Devynn Nicole, 3 1/2.

### Michelle Leslie Lombardo

A daughter, Michelle Leslie Lombardo was born on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1998 at Mount Auburn Hospital to Amy L. Boyson and Nicholas M. Lombardo II of Woburn.

Maternal grandparents are Paul and Judy Boyson of Arlington.

Paternal grandparents are Marguerite Lombardo of Woburn and Richard DiCesare of Melrose.

Great-grandparents are James and Martha Pearson of Belmont, Nicholas M. Lombardo Sr. of Woburn and the late Margaret Lombardo.

### Brian Anthony Oppedisano

A son, Brian Anthony Oppedisano was born on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1998 at Mount Auburn Hospital to Anthony and Celia Oppedisano of Arlington.

Maternal grandparents are James and Maryanne Tracy of Tewksbury.

Paternal grandparents are Anthony and Theresa Oppedisano of Arlington.

Brian weighed 7 lbs. and 7 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. He is welcomed by his brother Michael James.

### Emma Margaret Petrie

A daughter, Emma Margaret Petrie was born on Oct. 14, 1998 at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital to Daniel and Judy Petrie of Arlington.

## CABLE LISTING

### Thursday, Jan. 14

6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
6:30 p.m. — Home School Alternative  
7 p.m. — Electronic Theater  
7:30 p.m. — On Board  
8 p.m. — SportsLINE  
8:30 p.m. — Autofixation  
9 p.m. — MSL Presents: A Question of Law  
9:30 p.m. — Tai Chi: To Your Health  
10 p.m. — CCN CG  
11 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

### Friday, Jan. 15

6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
10 a.m. — Media Scope  
10:30 a.m. — Cable Cuisine  
11 a.m. — The Front Page  
11:30 a.m. — Ready, Willing, Enable  
12 p.m. — The Arlington Ear  
1 p.m. — Selectmen's Meeting (Replay)  
3:30 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
5 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
5:30 p.m. — SportsLINE  
6 p.m. — Arlington Girls Basketball vs. Cambridge  
8 p.m. — The Arlington Ear  
9 p.m. — Arlington Boys Hockey vs. Cambridge  
11:30 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

### Saturday, Jan. 16

6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
10 a.m. — Arlington Boys Hockey vs. Cambridge  
12:30 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

7 p.m. — SportsLINE  
7:30 p.m. — On Screen  
8 p.m. — Personal Best  
8:30 p.m. — The Screening Room  
9 p.m. — Arlington Girls Basketball vs. Cambridge  
11 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

### Sunday, Jan. 17

6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
10 a.m. — The Pleasant St. Church - Live  
11:30 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
12 p.m. — Arlington Girls Basketball vs. Cambridge  
2 p.m. — Arlington Boys Hockey vs. Cambridge  
5 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
6 p.m. — Massachusetts School of Law Educational Forum  
7 p.m. — The Screening Room  
7:30 p.m. — Coast to Coast  
8 p.m. — The Bookcase  
8:30 p.m. — The Exploding Envelope  
9 p.m. — Philips Academy Presents: Dido & Aeneas  
10 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

### Monday, Jan. 18

6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
6 p.m. — Scribblers  
7 p.m. — Selectmen's Meeting (Replay)  
11 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

### Tuesday, Jan. 19

6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
11 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
2 p.m. — CCN Bulletin Board

2:30 p.m. — Media Scope  
3 p.m. — Rainforest Reptile Show  
3:30 p.m. — Everybody Folds  
Something  
4 p.m. — Clelia's Cucina Italiana  
4:30 p.m. — The Screening Room  
5 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
6 p.m. — Grecian Melodies  
7 p.m. — Arlington Boys Basketball vs. Everett  
9 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

### Wednesday, Jan. 20

6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
6 p.m. — On Board  
6:30 p.m. — Exploding Envelope  
7 p.m. — Scribblers  
8 p.m. — Eco View  
8:30 p.m. — SportsLINE  
9 p.m. — Paws for Adoption  
9:30 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board  
(All programs shown on Arlington Community Television, public access Channel 3, unless otherwise noted.)

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## COMMENT

The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"

Samuel Wilson

## EDITORIAL

## Antonelli should resign as Register of Probate

Indications are that a hearing officer has recommended that a review committee terminate Middlesex Register of Probate Robert Antonelli. Antonelli was suspended — with pay — Oct. 28, 1997, after employees claimed he harassed and berated them, and after officials alleged he tried to influence two judges on personal issues.

A year ago we urged Antonelli to resign his elective office, which is for a 6-year term and which now carries an \$82,500 salary. This week his lawyer appealed to the Committee on Professional Responsibility for Clerks of Courts about Antonelli's future. That committee has 90 days to make a recommendation to the Supreme Judicial Court, which will then render a final decision. In his argument, Antonelli's lawyer, Peter Gubellini, said his client admitted making some mistakes and would accept sanctions and be willing to take sensitivity or management training if he could keep his job.

For Antonelli to extend an olive branch at this point is an empty gesture, born of his desire to wipe away this untidy bit of his management history. Only 10 months into his 6-year term, Antonelli had succeeded in making the workplace one in which some staff members were intimidated, humiliated and frightened for their jobs. He is alleged to have tried to influence two judges, including one incident in which he threatened the jobs of two police officers, even as he was telephoning a judge in the middle of the night. When she answered the phone at her home and realized Antonelli was trying to use her as an intimidation tactic, she hung up and reported the incident to police, according to official reports.

During his campaign Antonelli was belligerent and arrogant. Testimony from some of his staff members in the office and police reports indicate he did not change his abrasive style once he took office, becoming even more manipulative as a boss.

If the hearing officer does recommend Antonelli's removal from office, and if the SJC ultimately supports that recommendation, we hope Antonelli will spare taxpayers the bother of a drawn-out appeal. Antonelli is in the wrong job and has had, from the outset, the wrong attitude about public service. He should step down now and save face.

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IF YOU'RE A "BETTER PERSON," WHY DID YOU JUST STIFF THE BARTENDER?

I HAVE NO-FAULT, TOO.



## It's time for town to address rezoning issues

BY PATRICIA WORDEN

This week's agenda for the Arlington Redevelopment Board included two items of greater than usual current interest. One was the execution of the Osco decision denying Osco a permit for construction. The other was proposed zoning amendments. The latter is very important for the future of the town and is worthy of energetic and ongoing work by the Board and those interested in the physical future, traffic concerns and attractiveness of Arlington.

For example, the rezoning of the Osco-Olds site has not yet been accomplished by Town Meeting, the predominant reason for this being that the Zoning By-Law has no zones which are ideal for this site. In this particular case a zone permitting low vehicular intensity retail is desirable (rather than high intensity vehicular zone which is the nature of the present B2A zoning there). The Arlington Zoning By-Law has no such low traffic retail zone. It is important that this and other inadequacies in our zoning are rectified.

I was much relieved when the Redevelopment Board showed their concern for safety at the Osco-Olds site by denying the permit. However, to avoid future situations of this type we need zoning protection. Already we find motorists avoiding the Stop & Shop intersection by using residential side streets to Gray Street. A further bottleneck at Mill Street, for which the projections of increased traffic under B2A zoning are staggering, will slow down traffic on the Avenue so much that our residential streets are going to become even more popular as convenient by-passes to a Gray Street detour.

The majority of Town Meeting members

showed their concern for the development issues at the Osco-Olds site by voting in favor of Article 4 at the Special Town Meeting in December, designed to rezone the site from B2A to B1 (although the vote fell short of two-thirds requirement for final enactment). This was in spite of the fact that B1 does not allow

## GUEST COMMENT

retail (although it does allow many service uses). Support for a change came from Town Meeting Members from all over town and it is important to realize why since the reasons are pertinent to whatever zone can be designed as best for that area. Most of the reasons are set out in the following list of points which were distributed at the meeting with support of Town Meeting Members from all over town. It should be read keeping in mind that most of us who voted for B1 did so because it was the only current Arlington Business Zone which protects us from high intensity traffic, but we would have preferred such a zone which would also permit retail. Such a zone should be created at this point by the ARB.

• Rezoning is necessary to prevent a big box store from being built on this site. It is the way we can allow development with safety for pedestrians, vehicles, bicyclists, blind people, and senior citizens (elderly apartments and the Senior Center are nearby) and maintain a suitable environment for the historical St. Athanasius Church and the Jason Russell House. The new zone should be most consistent with the surrounding areas — low traffic B1 zones border two sides of the site.

• Pro-business zoning is needed here but this should be pro-the-right-kind-of-busi-

ness. It should be in line with the ABC Study. It should remove the temptation for the ARB to repeat the mistake of encouraging a big traffic store here. The Osco-Olds site is the only one of the B2A sites created recently which did not have a huge store already built upon it (the other sites have, e.g. Stop & Shop, Walgreens, Johnny's Food master). This is a rare opportunity to make the right type of zoning for the town before any building is built there.

• The opinions of local business owners should be considered. More than 20 business owners close to the site are among several dozen who have supported the effort to rezone to this site. Contributions from merchants have helped defray the cost of attorney services needed to fight the Osco project and then to achieve zoning reform. These business owners believe low intensity traffic business zone will draw more customers to their businesses without creating the negative impact of too much traffic congestion.

• Tax revenue from development of this site as a low traffic intensity business zone can double or triple the tax revenue as compared with what a high traffic store can provide. The drug store paying the most taxes in Arlington is Walgreens — \$29,228/year with 50 percent more land than 743 - 745 Mass. Ave. According to Osco's lawyer they pay \$17,000. By contrast eight townhouses at the rear of the site fronting on Bacon Street would generate \$35,000 per year in taxes and added commercial and low traffic intensity retail development fronting on Mass. Ave. would provide even more revenue greatly exceeding tax revenue from a big box store. Worden, a Town Meeting member, is a Jason Street resident.

## Elections at a glance

## Seats Open:

## Board of Selectmen: (2)

Stephen J. Gilligan  
Charles Lyons

## School Committee: (3)

Barbara C. Goodman  
Martin Thrope  
One open seat

## Board of Assessors: (1)

Maurice H. O'Connell

## Town Clerk: (1)

Corinne M. Rainville

## Town Treasurer: (1)

John Bialer

## Housing Authority: (1)

John Griffin

## Town Meeting:

91 seats

## Important Dates:

**Feb. 1** Last day for Town Meeting members to give written notice of re-election plans.

**Feb. 4** Last day for candidates to obtain blank nomination papers.

**Feb. 8** Last day for candidates to file nomination papers for signature certification by the Registrars of Voters.

**Feb. 24** Last day to withdraw or file objections to nomination papers.



**Feb. 25** Drawing of candidates' names to determine position on the ballot.

**March 6** Last day for voters to register for the town election.

**March 27** Town election.

## Election Policies:

• The Arlington Advocate will print one formal announcement or position paper from each candidate. The submission should be no more than 600 words and should be accompanied by a color photograph. No announcements will be printed after the March 11 edition.

• Readers are welcome to submit letters, limited to 400 words, that address campaign issues. Letters that merely endorse or denigrate a candidate will not be published. No election letters will be published after the March 18 edition.

• Candidates may submit letters to the editor that address issues raised either by readers' letters or by their opponents. These letters should not be longer than 300 words.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

It is the goal of The Arlington Advocate to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need, in a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.

## Eagle exhibits the value of Spy Pond

To the Editor:

A raucous chorus of angry crows and sea gulls announced the presence of a bald eagle on the ice of Spy Pond last Sunday at about 10:30 a.m.. I have been living on the pond for over thirty years, and it is the first time I have seen one here. Standing about thirty inches tall, with a white head and white tail a sharp contrast to his black body, the eagle was a commanding sight as he surveyed the pond from his icy vantage point midway between our shore and the Boys Club. He allowed plenty of time for me to examine him closely with binoculars and telescope, and I was sobered by the sharp hook of his heavy yellow beak and the enormous talons sprouting from his yellow feet. No wonder the other birds felt threatened!

When he flew over to Elizabeth Island for a higher perch, all the crows who heralded his arrival had vanished, and the trees were still. Another viewer later reported seeing the eagle feeding on fish caught in the ice, so this was a successful expedition for him, prompting me to hope for a

return visit. As he finally flew away at 12:40 p.m., those who watched him leave marveled at his more than six foot wing span that allowed him to gain altitude effortlessly as he departed to the northwest.

Once again I am reminded of what a valuable resource Spy Pond is to me, to the Town of Arlington, to the state and even to this country. With more cautious use of chemicals and pesticides, perhaps our national bird will no longer be threatened with extinction.

We can all do our part by using environmentally friendly products on our lawns and gardens, and by not dumping gas, oil or any other refuse into our storm drains, to insure that the run-off into our pond does not make it an unhealthy place for a bald eagle to feed.

Harriet Noyes  
Sheraton Park

## Walsh Habib decides against election run

To the editor:

It has been said to lead one

must listen. These last few weeks I have listened to the voices of family, friends, colleagues and supporters urging me to run for an open seat on the Arlington School Committee, as reported in the Dec. 24 Advocate.

I have also listened to the voice within, the voice of a mother, wife, lawyer, advocate. I have concluded that I cannot fulfill my personal and professional obligations and be an effective member of the School Committee.

Therefore, I will not be a candidate for elective office in 1999.

To those who have worked to tirelessly with me to improve our town and our commonwealth, my deepest thanks, once again for all your support.

Teresa Walsh Habib  
Hutchinson Road

## Opera incident raises educational concerns

To the editor:

The recent occurrence at the Peirce School in which a fourth grade student's mother objected to the video of the PBS presentation of Mozart's "Marriage to Figaro," and the statement subsequently issued that the movie was not part of the curriculum

and would not be shown again, disturbed me.

This opera is hardly the kind of thing I would have expected a controversy about; it is a light-hearted comedy with many well-known melodies, well within the musical grasp of most children of this age. Considering the abysmal level of a great deal of "children's" music currently, I thought it was great that they had the opportunity to hear Mozart!

Opera is not Disney World to be sure; it deals with all kinds of human behavior, just as do many of the soap operas which many children watch (or even the political events of this year!).

Have the people who issued this statement actually seen the video?

I am also, as a retired Arlington art teacher, concerned about the implications of a parent's objecting to a long-established work of art, and the response that "it will not be shown again." That's scary.

I would not necessarily have selected this particular work of Mozart for fourth graders, but this arbitrary banning is disturbing.

Phyllis A. Watson  
Wachusett Avenue

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, FROM PAGE 6

## Corporations are behind funding woes

To the editor:

Columnist Steve LeBlanc laments the influence of corporate spending on referenda in Massachusetts. (Advocate, Jan. 7) He focuses on "a U.S. Supreme Court ruling equating money with free speech." The origin of the problem is more basic.

An earlier court ruled that a corporation is an individual. Humanizing corporations gave them rights and privileges meant by the funders for humans. That is the source of the distortion of constitutional rights.

Corporations enjoy rights and privileges while many humans do not have access to the courts to enforce their rights. To correct this perversion a group called "Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy" directs its efforts at this aspect of the problem. They can be reached at P.O. Box 246, S. Yarmouth, MA 02664-0246 or at people@poclad.org>

Roy Bercaw  
Porter Square  
Cambridge

## Reader questions tactics of pastor

To the editor:

I would like to add my voice to that of Town Meeting member Kevin L. McCarthy regarding the outrageous behavior of the pastor of the Greek Orthodox church at the Dec. 2 Town Meeting. The pastor made derogatory remarks about the highly respected Arlington attorney Robert Muldoon in front of the entire body.

This was not the first time the pastor suggested that someone who disagreed with him regarding the Osco property requires psychological counseling. I recall his making similar remarks about someone who left her opinion about the Osco issue on the church's voice mail.

Furthermore, bear in mind the pastor wrote in his letter which appeared in the Oct. 22 Advocate that, because my mother stated the obvious fact that the Osco property is not "sacred" and asked whether the pastor told the writer of an Oct. 1 Advocate article that their ultimate goal is "to convince Osco to donate this parcel of land to St. Athanasius Church," she initiated a "personal attack" against the entire congregation of his church. (Never mind that wherever I go in Arlington the silent majority who support Osco but who do not write letters to the editor believe his "ultimate goal" remark clearly indicates the pastor covets his neighbor's property, which is a sin against the Tenth Commandment.)

This, then, is the Greek pas-

tor's tactic: when someone disagrees with him, especially a highly respected and well-known attorney like Muldoon who may be able to convince others that his thinking is cogent and sensible, the pastor casts aspersions on that individual.

Let me make the following abundantly clear. This message is for the pastor and not for his parishioners and not for the supporters of Articles 4 and 5. Sir, you should have bought the property when you had the opportunity to do so but you did not. Please have the courtesy to give to others the same rights to free expression that you desire or demand for yourself. If that is not possible, perhaps you should remove yourself from the situation.

Anthony L. Bernacchi  
Massachusetts Avenue

## Historic commission looking for member

To the Editor:

Is the preservation of Arlington's historic neighborhoods important to you? If so, there is an opportunity for public service on the town's Historic District Commissions.

One vacancy is open to any resident of the town, who has "knowledge or background in the areas of history, architecture, historic preservation, law, urban design or other relevant disciplines."

The other vacancy is open to any resident or property owner in the recently established Jason/Gray Historic District.

Duties of Commissioners include attendance at monthly meetings (Generally on the 4th Thursday), serving, occasionally, as monitor for a project approved by a Commission, and preparation of information, community outreach, studies for new proposed districts and the like.

Anyone who is interested is urged to send an expression of such interest to the Commissions' executive secretary, Martha Donoghue, 19 Patrick St., Arlington, MA 02474.

John L. Worden III  
Secretary

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## THANK YOUS

Ambulance for their quick response and professional care given on New Years Eve to our father and husband.

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## Residents thanked by town's Food Pantry

To the Editor:

Once again, the volunteer staff of the Arlington Food Pantry is deeply indebted to the residents of Arlington for their generosity during the recent holiday season. The many contributions of non-perishable foods, paper goods, personal toilet items, and even some monetary donations enabled us to make the holiday season a little brighter for the more than 125 family units who are our clients.

It would be impossible to list all of the individuals whose caring support continues to make our work possible. The contributions made through our churches, left at regular collection points like Johnnie's Foodmaster, and collected by Scouting groups, community organizations, and the school children were deeply appreciated. The extra helping hands provided by individuals and groups in sorting things and placing them on the shelves at the Church of Our Savior, the location of the Food Pantry, were also very much appreciated.

Many of our clients are elderly, out of work, single parents with meager incomes, and all of them greatly benefit from what you do

to help us help them. Again, please accept our heartfelt thanks for what you have done and continue to do.

Frank A. Mandosa  
The Food Pantry Committee

## Hard work made for a great jamboree

The members of the hockey jamboree committee would like to thank all the people involved in the running of one of the most successful days we have ever had. There is an enormous amount of work done prior to the games such as invitations, confirmations, scheduling, ad sales, program book layout, printing, press releases, game official scheduling, college notifications, ice booking, locker room assignments and numerous phone calls and mailings.

However, on game day, all the previous work would be for naught without the help of the staff of the Sports Center and the volunteers from the hockey club. Bob McKeown and his crew of Ken Dunn, Darren McKenzie, Dan and Mike Plamondon, Tim Pacheco, Dan Walsh, Kara Yankauskas, Jim Casey, Matt Mead, Dee Savioli, Kendra Whitney and Kelly Yankauskas were instrumental in keeping the day flowing smoothly and safely for all involved.

Also, game officials Gerry Bartholomew, Jim Prior, Joe Palmieri and last but certainly not least, our EMT Don Murphy with their hockey experience takes a

great load of responsibility off the committee during the day so we can attend to other matters. We would also like to thank all the concession stand volunteers for their time they donated to the cause. Thanks to all the businesses that bought ad space. We feel that without all this input the jamboree could never be this successful or this long-lasting. We are looking forward to next year with the idea to try and improve it more.

John Guanci  
Joe Keenan  
Arthur Ales  
The Jamboree Committee

## Scouts thank Gilligan

To the Editor:

On behalf of the many boys involved in Cub Scout Pack 305, we would like to convey our thanks to Stephen Gilligan, chairman of the Arlington Board of Selectman.

Over the past several months, Mr. Gilligan has given tours of Town Hall to several of our Cub Scout Dens and has taught our scouts about the importance of local government.

He even went out of his way to invite some of our older scouts to a Board of Selectman's meeting where he personally presented them with their citizen activity badges.

We appreciate the leadership and commitment Mr. Gilligan has provided for our youth.

Gary Magil  
Program Chairman  
Cub Scout Pack #305

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# SOCIAL NEWS



Craig Michael Rabe and Suzanne Marie Pawlak

## Suzanne Marie Pawlak to wed Craig Michael Rabe

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Pawlak of Winchester announce the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne Marie, to Craig Michael Rabe of Rome, N.Y.

Ms. Pawlak is a graduate of Winchester High School and Syracuse University. She is an account executive with Wyle Electronics in Bedford.

Mr. Rabe, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rabe, is a graduate of Rome Free Academy and Clarkson University. He is the founder and president of the Computer Café in Arlington.

A June 1999 wedding at the Roscliff Mansion in Newport, R.I. is planned.



Angela Monica DiCiaccio and Gregory James Kalivas

## Angela Monica DiCiaccio to wed Gregory James Kalivas

Mr. and Mrs. Frank DiCiaccio of Arlington announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela Monica, to Gregory James Kalivas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kalivas of Arlington.

Angela received a bachelor of arts degree from Assumption College and a law degree from Suffolk University Law School. Recently admitted to the Massachusetts Bar, she works as an attorney for the law firm of Friedman & Atherton in Boston.

Greg received a bachelor of arts degree from Westfield State College. He is employed as an applications consultant for Meditech in Framingham.

A June wedding is planned.



Colleen Dana Raymond and Timothy Rheo Gagne

## Colleen Dana Raymond weds Timothy Rheo Gagne

Miss Colleen Dana Raymond and Mr. Timothy Rheo Gagne were married on Aug. 15, 1998 at St. Eulalia's Church in Winchester. The Reverend Victor LaVoie celebrated the Nuptial Mass.

The bride is the daughter of Maureen and Anthony Raymond of Winchester, former of Arlington. The groom is the son of Kathy Gagne of Springfield and Gary Gagne of Auburn.

The bride's grandparents are Alice and Paul Dorrington of Arlington, Helen Raymond Glenon of Arlington and the late Samuel Raymond. The groom's grandparents are Jane Dunne of Springfield and the late Timothy Dunne and Yvette and Rheo Gagne of Chicopee.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. She wore a *Priscilla of Boston* gown made of silk shantung, with Venetian lace covering the bodice. She was attended by two maids of honor, cousins Katrina Raymond and Michelle Gasper. Bridesmaids were Kerry Johnson, Wendy Carroll, Diane Calareso and Amy McHugh. Brianna Raymond, the bride's niece, was the flowergirl.

The groom was attended by his brother Jeffrey Gagne, as best man. Ushers were Anthony Raymond, Jr., Keith Raymond, Brian Brown, David Wroblewski, and Lt. Dan Begin.

A reception was held at the Officers' Club at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, followed by a honeymoon trip to Anguilla.

The bride is a 1990 graduate of Winchester High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree at Boston College and her Master's degree in Education at Wheelock College. She is a second grade teacher in Concord.

The groom is a graduate of Cathedral High School in Springfield. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Finance at Boston College and is a Senior Systems Analyst at Fidelity Investments in Boston.

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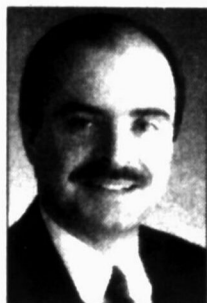
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## BUSINESS NEWS

## Coughlin honored at Hunneman group

Don Coughlin, vice president/sales associate at Hunneman and Company/Coldwell Banker, has been selected to join the company's President's Club again for 1999. This is an honor bestowed thus far to only producers in the top four percent of the more than 1,600 Hunneman sales associates. This is the sixth year Coughlin has been chosen to be a member of this prestigious Hunneman group.



Don Coughlin

The club honors sales agents who have a significant number of local listings for calendar 1998. "Thanks to all of my loyal clients and customers who made this award possible for me," Coughlin said.

## 'Cones for Kids' fund raiser at Friendly's

For the 18th consecutive year, local Friendly's Restaurants will conduct the annual "Cones for Kids" campaign from Jan. 18 through Feb. 14. Proceeds will fund Easter Seals Adaptive Swim Programs in communities all over Massachusetts.

For a \$1 donation to Easter Seals, the "Cones for Kids" campaign offers Friendly's guests five Kids' Valentine Cards, each redeemable for a free Friendly's Kid Cone. Guests can also select a book of money-saving coupons for a \$1 donation. The Friendly's Coupon Book includes a coupon for a free Classic Sundae, \$45 in savings on some favorite Friendly's menu items and a coupon for a free 8x10 inch color portrait from Photography by JC Penney.

Friendly's has raised more than \$17 million nationwide over the years to fund Easter Seals programs and services that help peo-

ple with disabilities expand their independence. Last year, Friendly's "Cones for Kids" campaign raised over \$1.4 million to support Easter Seals services.

"The money raised in our restaurants stays right here in our community and helps our friends and neighbors with disabilities," said Friendly's District Manager Chuck Saba. "The money raised this year in Arlington will pay for local swim programs. It's all possible because of our loyal guests and hard-working employees."

In Greater Boston, Easter Seals Swim Programs open up new opportunities for exercise, fun and socialization to children and adults with disabilities.

## Small business tax-saving tip offered

Last summer, Congress made significant strides toward reform to address one of the top concerns facing small business — health care. But while reforms such as increased deductibility of health insurance costs is on the way, many Americans are missing out on a little-known tax code provision that could already be saving them hundreds of dollars.

Since 1954, IRS Code Section 105 has offered a 100 percent tax deduction of family medical expenses to qualifying self-employed small business owners. The code has remained a well-kept secret, but sole proprietors facing the growing burdens of health care are increasingly looking into the tax savings offered by a Section 105 plan.

As with all tax laws, there are IRS, Department of Labor and ERISA compliance issues that must be considered. For this reason, tax professionals are employing the service of third-party administrators like Biz Plan to efficiently enroll clients for this tax savings program.

For more information about Biz Plan, or to find out about other NASE programs that help small businesses, call Arlington's Lourdes Pita at 1-800-963-7000.



Arlington residents were among the prizewinners at the Arlington office of Boston Federal Savings Bank's holiday open house for customers and friends. All visitors to the Open House received keychains, some of which were specially marked for recipients to receive gift checks. Shown receiving a \$50 check from David Conley, bank president, is Margaret J. O'Rourke of Arlington. Looking on is bank employee Tracy Hale, right.

## Kraines named plan director at Fallon

Fallon Healthcare System announced last week that Dr. Jeffrey L. Kraines of Arlington, former Regional Medical Director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and HMO Blue, has been named Medical Director of Health Management Services for both Fallon Clinic and Fallon Community Health Plan.

While with Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kraines was responsible for the financial and quality performance of managed care providers at hospital campuses throughout the region. As regional medical director, he consulted with physician groups and hospitals to help them adapt to the managed care environment. Among his other functions, he was chairman of the statewide Credentials/Peer Review Committee, and directed various chronic disease management and quality programs.

Kraines also served as vice president and medical director of Private Healthcare Systems, Inc. in Waltham, a six-million life pre-

ferred provide organization (PPO).

His clinical experience includes the private practice of rheumatology, internal medicine and emergency medicine in New Hampshire and the Boston area. He is an adjunct assistant professor of clinical medicine at Dartmouth Medical School and served as a clinical instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

He graduated from Wesleyan University and the University of Chicago's Pritzler School of Medicine, before serving his internship and residency at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. He served his fellowship in rheumatology at the University of Chicago and Michael Reese Hospital. He is board certified in both internal medicine and rheumatology.

Fallon Healthcare System of Worcester includes Fallon Clinic, which operates 36 medical centers and clinics throughout central and eastern Massachusetts staffed by 266 physicians, and Fallon Community Health Plan, which has more than 200,000 members and is one of America's foremost health maintenance organiza-

## Computer tips for a smooth, safe ride

For veteran computer users, and for those who have just purchased a new personal computer, I offer a few recommendations that, if used on a regular basis, will prove to be valuable for keeping your computer running smooth and safe.

These recommendations will protect you if something goes wrong. Imagine going to your office one day only to find that your doors are locked and there is no way to get in, ever. Your furniture is gone, your phones are disconnected, your money is gone and all of your papers and files have vanished.

This is what it would be like if your computer's hard drive crashed without having the proper back up of your data. Many people don't think about this until it happens to them, and then it is usually too late. If it hasn't happened to you yet, it probably will in the future. Hard drives are improving, but they do crash for a variety of reasons.

There are two ways to back up your information. One is to do a complete hard drive back up with a tape drive. This allows you to restore your entire hard drive to its original configuration with all of the shortcuts, menus, and data files just as they were when you initially backed them up. This requires you to install a tape drive. A tape drive to back up a 3.2GB hard drive costs \$179. To back up an 8GB hard drive, the cost is \$249. Once installed, you can schedule regular back up procedure for whatever frequency you desire. The back up time varies depending upon the speed of your computer and drive, and the amount of data being backed up. Once backed up you can remove the tape and store it in a different location if you so desire.

Another way to back up your information is to copy just your important data files onto a floppy disk or a zip drive. A zip drive is just like a big floppy disk and can store the equivalent of about 70 floppy disks. You can attach one to your computer through your printer port for about \$130, or have one installed internally in your computer for about the same amount. Backing up just your data files is cheaper, but you still need to reinstall Windows and all of your other programs. It doesn't matter which one you do. Remember: always back up any information you don't want to lose. If you are connected to the Internet or share files with another computer, make sure that you have a virus protection program installed on your computer. Viruses can cause significant damage to your computer. Viruses can destroy data or even erase your

entire hard drive. I have seen too many people who have brought their computers into my store who have lost all of their data due to a virus. You can purchase a virus protection program for about \$30-\$40. The two most popular programs are Norton Antivirus and McAfee's VirusScan. If you choose, you can download free evaluation copies for both of them online at [www.mcafee.com](http://www.mcafee.com) and [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com).

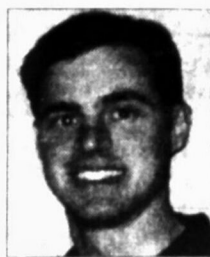
Like losing your data, if you haven't had a virus yet you probably will. If your computer is acting funny, it is probably a result of a virus. If you haven't used any virus software before and you are on the Internet, frequently there is good chance that you might find some sort of virus on your computer. Does your computer seem to be running a little slower than you remembered? Over time files on your computer will become fragmented and scattered around your hard drive. This will take longer for your computer to find all of the pieces and it slows down your computer. To remedy this situation you need to defragment your hard drive. This can simply be done by going to your 'program files' then to your 'accessories' folder and then to 'system tools'. If your drive is as little as 3 percent fragmented it will slow down your computer. You can schedule this process to automatically happen on a regular basis. It should be done at least once a month.

As mentioned earlier, hard drive crashes can cause major frustrations.

To check your hard drive for errors, an early warning sign of a failure, you can perform a scan disk. This is located in your system tools folder as well and should also be performed about once a month. Regularly following these procedures and preventative measures will save you time and many headaches in the long run. The attractive feature about these measures is that they really take very little effort to perform.

As a reader of this column I would like to offer to you a free computer tune-up which includes the above mentioned procedures, except for the back up, a cleaning of the inside and outside of your computer and an upgrade analysis. Just bring your computer to The Computer Café or call us to set up an appointment and we'll do it for you the same day that you bring your computer in. Mention this article and you won't be charged anything for the service. If you have any more questions regarding this topic or any others, please contact me at [craig@compcafe.com](mailto:craig@compcafe.com), visit our web page at [www.compcafe.com](http://www.compcafe.com), send me a letter at 449 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, or drop a question in the question box at The Computer Café. If your comments or questions are used in the column, you will receive a gift certificate for one free training class at The Computer Café or two free hours of computer rental.

## Bytes from the Café



CRAIG RABE

## Hart honored for work on substance abuse hotline

The Medical Foundation of Boston recently awarded Arlington resident Carolyn Hart a Community Health Award for her contributions and commitment to The Medical Foundation's Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline.

The award was presented as part of The Medical Foundation's 1998 Annual Meeting last month.

Hart was presented the award by The Medical Foundation President Raymond Considine and Robin Fox, assistant coordinator of the Helpline. A Helpline volunteer since October 1997, Carolyn was selected for the award because of her dedication to callers as well as her willingness "above and beyond the call of duty" to help develop the Helpline's new computerized database.

The Helpline is a 24-hour phone-based project providing a range of statewide referral and support services to people

seeking help for their own addictions or the addictions of friends, family members or patients. In addition to referring callers to resources, such as detoxification facilities and local support groups, volunteers like Carolyn Hart are well-trained, supportive listeners. The Helpline is a statewide resource of The Medical Foundation's Health Promotion Management Services and is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The Medical Foundation (TMF) advances individual and community health through the discovery of new knowledge and the design, provision and evaluation of innovative programs. Based in Boston at 95 Berkeley St., TMF is a non-profit organization supported by public grants and contracts, private grants, individual donations, the United Way of Mass. Bay, and other revenue. For more information about programs and services call (617) 451-0049.)



From left, Raymond Considine, president of The Medical Foundation, Boston; Carolyn Hart, award recipient and Arlington resident; and Robin Fox, assistant coordinator, Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline.

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cleaning, videos and more right to your home. So trade your errands for more free time and think about giving that pet training project another try.



## Sama can handle the dings and dents of life

■ DING, FROM PAGE 1

contend with so there is no chance the paint will be the wrong color.

"Paint is hard to match, and 90 percent of the time when you have a ding or a dent the paint is fine, so there is really no need to re-paint," said Sama.

George Grey, of Lexington Toyota, is a big fan of Sama's work.

"When you send a car to a body shop they have to work out each dent, filter it and fill it, and it doesn't always match. When Jim's done you can't even tell there was ever a dent there," said Grey.

Added to the reported quality of Sama's service is the convenience. Sama travels to his client and fixes the car usually within an hour.

"If you bring your car to a body shop, you'll have to leave it there for a few days; you have to find a way to get around, maybe rent a car. With peoples hectic schedules it is a hard thing to do," said Sama.

Though an expert at the process now, Sama said it took him an entire year to perfect his method.

"Fortunately I did find someone around here who was an expert at the process. He became my trainer and my mentor," said Sama, referring to Bob Sheppard of Wakefield.

Sama had worked on junk cars and when he first closed his salon, he asked some of his old clients if they would mind if he took some dents out of their cars. Sama said they were happy to help him out.

"There were many times when I just wanted to give up the whole thing, throw my tools out and just quit," said Sama of his difficult training period.

But the more he practiced, the better he got, and the more he enjoyed his work.

"It's an art, bringing back metal to its original form. Metal is a very unforgiving material. You don't get a second chance. It is a one-shot deal," said Sama.

Sama got his start when he approached Mirak Leasing, where he had previously bought a car, and asked them if they had any dents that he could work on.

He was given a Buick LeSabre with a dime-sized ding in it, and he was off to the start of his new career.

For two hours he worked on the dent that today would take him just 10 minutes.

Mirak managers were impressed and gave him yet another car to work on. Before he knew it, he had established an account with Mirak.

"We had been using a national franchise for years that we were extremely unhappy with, then we started using Jim and his work is just unbelievable," said used car manager Larry LaVuolo, who employs Sama at least once a week.

Now Sama services about 20 dealerships and on average fixes 50 cars a week. He charges between \$75 - \$125, while he says would cost between \$250 to \$300.

Most of his work comes through referrals and word of mouth.

But what happens in the future if body shops employ their own paintless dent removal people, will Sama be out of a business?

Sama said it is not cost-effective for them to hire someone full-time, so he does not believe it will be a problem.

"I don't think that is going to happen. I believe it will remain as a sublet kind of thing. Body shops will go outside, like they do today, if they want this done," said Sama.

In addition, said Grey, Sama is the best at the process compared to anyone he knows in the field.

"I have tried a lot of different guys who do the same work as Jim, but their work just does not compare," said Grey.

The new technology originated in Germany and was brought to the United States eight years ago, said Sama. The process works about 90 percent of the time, but if the dent is too deep or if it is on the edge of the panel then it may be impossible to reach it from the inside.

Sama is hopeful for the future. He has a wife, Lisa, and two sons Blake and James. In fact he hopes Ding-Dent Done will eventually be Ding-Dent Done and Sons.

"I gave my son a hood for his birthday so he could practice," said Sama smiling.

But as for now James, 13, likes kick-boxing and Blake, 10, plays on the Arlington hockey team.

Ding-Dent Done will be featured on Chronicle sometime in February.

## Coakley sworn in a Middlesex DA

■ COAKLEY, FROM PAGE 1

position but added that she is not alone and will have great resources to call upon. "I'll have to wear many hats, but I have experience. Here in the Middlesex district attorney's office we are not just working in an assembly line of justice but play a large role in it."

Reilly, Coakley's predecessor, said it has been a great honor to serve as district attorney for Middlesex County and that he can't think of a better way to end it than to see Coakley succeed him.

"The office is in great hands," Reilly said. "Middlesex County is a very competitive environment and you don't get to the top of it without a lot of hard work. Martha has the courage to put herself on the line; she ran a very competitive race; and she won because she is the best person for the job."

Throughout her campaign, Coakley was asked if being a woman was an advantage. Coakley repeatedly downplayed gender and focused on her credentials for the job.

It is nonetheless significant that Coakley is the first woman in Massachusetts to have been elected to the post without having been appointed the previous term, said Eileen M. Donoghue, mayor of Lowell.

"We're delighted to have Martha Coakley as our district attorney," Donoghue said. "She's a tough prosecutor, an outstanding litigator and she's principled and dedicated."

As the mayor of Lowell, Donoghue said she has become acutely aware of how important it is for the county to have a strong and effective district attorney. "A lot of our work is dedicated to improving the quality of life for



Martha Coakley leaves the stage at Town Hall after her swearing in.

STAFF PHOTO BY MARC VASCONCELLOS

people here," she said. "But unless we have a strong public safety component, it's a waste of time."

The county has seen a large decrease in crime recently, in large part because of Reilly's initiatives, which Coakley will embrace, Donoghue said. "One of the most important things to us on the local level is the partnerships we have, and one of our most important partnerships is the one we have with the district attorney of Middlesex County," she said.

Harshbarger offered Coakley the following advice. "Tom Reilly took credit for everything I did

and I suggest you start right in taking credit for everything he did," he said, joining the audience in laughter.

Harshbarger said the crowd was seeing history before its eyes. "We're seeing a great and worthy successor in a long and worthy line," he said.

Each year, the district attorney's office has some 35,000 cases, Coakley said. "We have a responsibility to provide fair and due process for each one of those cases," she said. "It's not always easy and we're not always right, but I want to lead my staff to aspire to

the level of excellence which we have always seen in this office."

Coakley, 45, has been an attorney since 1979. She earned a bachelor of arts degree cum laude from Williams College in 1975 and a juris doctor degree from Boston University School of Law in 1979 where she has served as an instructor to first-year law students. She practiced at Boston firms Parker, Coughlin, Daley & White and Goodwin, Procter & Hoar from 1979-1986 before serving as an assistant district attorney from 1986-87 in the Lowell District Court, Police Protection Bureau and Superior Court.

## Mann to focus on domestic violence agenda

■ MANN, FROM PAGE 1

Mann said she found Coakley's vision very exciting.

"Even before I met Martha last winter, I heard a lot about her and was most interested in her plans for really expanding and developing new interdisciplinary approaches to preventing family and youth violence," Mann said. "As a parent of two young children, who made the decision four years ago to stay home with them, I'm interested in working on the issues that affect violence in children."

This is a time when crime rates are down and the economy is good, Mann said. "Martha is saying 'Let's take advantage of this time to really work on the issues

which affect violence and work with agencies on preventive measures,' and it's exciting to me to realize someone is coming into office and broadening the scope of family protection."

Mann said that, in developing policies, she intends to take full advantage of the wealth of talent and pool of knowledge that already exists in the district attorney's office and right here in Arlington.

"I will spend a lot of time at first fact-finding and learning," she said. "I'll be in court, getting experience from the ground up, talking to judges and learning how programs work before starting to make new policies."

Middlesex County has such varied communities, ranging from rural towns to urban areas and wealthy ones, Mann said. "Not one town or city in the county is immune to issues of violence," she said. "Ways of addressing domestic and youth violence will be different, however, so we need to know about all the resources out there which can help us in our quest."

The work ahead is a bit daunting but extremely exciting, Mann said. "Just in the time since I decided to join the office, I've been speaking to a lot of people about the issues which speak to the cycle of violence and have been hearing of new initiatives."

### Change of plans

For the past four years, Mann has been actively involved in the community while caring for her sons Justin, 6, and David, 8. Prior to that, she worked for Gillman, McLaughlin & Hanrahan, a general-practice law firm in Boston, where she did commercial litigation from 1986-1994. She spent her entire law career at the firm after joining it as a clerk during her second year of law school.

Yet Mann said she didn't study law to become a lawyer. Rather, she wanted to gain knowledge of the law to help her in her legislative work. After receiving a degree in theater from Grinnell College in Iowa, Mann moved back to New York City, where she grew up work, to seek work as a lighting designer. When she saw how others lived on the salary one earns in such theater jobs, Mann said she realized it wasn't a career to which she could become fully dedicated.

"I learned to type," she said laughing. She worked for the American Field Service as a receptionist and then as a secretary. Soon after, Mann went to New York University to pursue a master's degree in public administration but left after receiving a fellowship to work for the New York state Senate as an office administrator.

It was in the Senate that Mann discovered the kind of work she wanted to do.

"When I was seven years old, I was out on the streets with my parents collecting signatures to fight against Westway (a trucking highway), and when I got to the legislature, we were still fighting Westway," she said. "As a child, I saw my parents get very involved in public policy issues, and it's the kind of work I enjoy."

In 1984, Mann enrolled in Albany Law School, from which she graduated in 1987. Along the way, she and Peter Correll decided to marry. She realized she might not be able to move to Massachusetts, where Peter was living, and pick up where she left off in legislative work.

"I knew I was getting married and wanted to have a family and Gillman, McLaughlin & Hanrahan were very flexible about my plans," Mann said. "It was wonderful working in the firm, but now that I can return to working in public policy and get paid for doing the work I love, I'm thrilled."

Mann will work a three-quarter week in the district attorney's office so that she can be home with her sons in the afternoons. "It's very important to me to be with my children, particularly as they get older," she said. "I remember as a child that at a certain age I started to keep things in. If my children want to talk, I want to be there for them so they don't have to keep something inside until 7 p.m."

"I still want to be very involved in their lives. If I can continue to have the luxury of being there for them in the afternoons, I want to do it," she said.

In addition, Mann said she wants to continue her work in the community as a member of the Redevelopment Board and in the coalition that was built around the March debt exclusion.

One can't help bringing Arlington experiences to the district attorney's office, Mann said. "If I have any ability, I'd like to translate it to creating models we can take to our communities," she said. "And there are initiatives right here in Arlington which are models for other communities."

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